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CONTROL 17901

DEPARTMENT OF STATE WDC/MAUGUST 23 1961

Action

EUR

FROM: BERLIN

REVIEWED BY *Hoozan*

DATE 9:02 AM

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

RDS or ADS EXT. DATE

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NO: 300, AUGUST

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 300, BONN 266; INFORMATION LONDON 193, PARIS 200, MOSCOW 187, POLAD USAREUR 175

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

FOLLOWING IS ROUNDUP BERLIN SITUATION AUGUST 23.

1. EAST BERLIN: ALL US OFFICIAL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC TO AND FROM EAST BERLIN EFFECTIVELY BARRED EXCEPT AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE, WHERE PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES WITH U.S. FORCES LICENSE PLATES BEING STOPPED AND OCCUPANTS ASKED FOR IDENTIFICATION WITH NEW ORDINANCE (BERLIN'S 282 DEPT, 252 BONN) CITED AS REASON FOR REQUIREMENT. PASSAGE BEING BARRED ON REFUSAL PRODUCE IDENTIFICATION. REQUESTS FOR SUMMONING OF SOV OFFICER CONSISTENTLY REFUSED ON GROUNDS GDR SOLELY RESPONSIBLE. SEEMS PROBABLE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE EARLY MORNING BY PRIVATELY-OWNED US FORCES REGISTERED CAR (OUR DEPT 283, BONN 253) WAS RESULT DELAY IN DISSEMINATION ORDERS TO VOPOS. VEHICLES BEARING BLACK AND YELLOW LICENSE PLATE OF MILITARY COMMAND PASSING THROUGH WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE DIFFICULTY. HOWEVER, INCIDENT DID OCCUR WHEN BERLIN COMMAND PATROL CAR DETAINED BY VOPO INSIDE EAST BERLIN. PATROL LEADER REQUESTED SUMMONING SOV OFFICER. AFTER THREE HOURS DURING WHICH VOPO OPENED PISTOL HOLDER TO PREVENT PATROL'S DEPARTURE, ENGLISH-SPEAKING SOV OFFICER APPEARED, EXAMINED PATROL LEADER'S ID CARD, RETURNED ONE HOUR LATER AND RELEASED PATROL, STATING HE KNEW WHY THEY WERE THERE AND WARNING THAT IF THEY RETURNED HE WOULD "SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGE." SUBSEQUENTLY, ANOTHER PATROL AND

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-2- 300, AUGUST 23, 11 PM, FROM: BERLIN

ONE BERLIN COMMAND TOUR BUS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITED AND RETURNED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

BERLIN COMMAND SEDAN CONTAINING MAJOR AND THREE ENLISTED MEN HARASSED AFTERNOON AUG 22 IN EAST BERLIN AND HELD UP FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AT EXIT POINT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE, ALLEGEDLY ON GROUNDS "MISBEHAVIOR." ONLY WEST BERLINERS WHO ABLE ENTER EAST BERLIN SO FAR REPORTEDLY ARE THOSE EMPLOYED IN SOVSECTOR OR INVOLVED INTERZONAL TRADE. THERE NO INDICATION NEW ENTRY PERMITS FOR WEST BERLINERS YET BEING ISSUED.

ALONG SECTOR-SECTOR BORDER AND AT NUMBER OF POINTS ON WEST BERLIN-SOVZONE BORDERS, WORK ON BARRIERS CONTINUES AT HEAVY PACE. STONE AND CONCRETE WALLS BEING MADE HIGHER AND/OR TOPPED WITH BARBED WIRE; NEW WALLS, BARBED WIRE FENCES AND ENTANGLEMENTS BEING INSTALLED, DITCHES DUG ACROSS STREETS, BORDER STRIPS CLEARED OF TREES AND UNDERBRUSH.

IN CONJUNCTION INITIATION US PATROLS AT SECTOR-SECTOR BORDER, BERLIN COMMAND HELICOPTER MADE 14-MINUTE FLIGHT AT 300-FT. ALTITUDE OVER HEAVILY POPULATED PORTIONS EAST BERLIN AND RETURNED WITHOUT INCIDENT. FLIGHT PLAN FILED BASE BEFOREHAND FOR "LOCAL FLIGHT."

2. WEST BERLIN: DENOUNCING LATEST EASTERN ACTIONS IN PRESS STATEMENT, SENAT SAID ALLIED RIGHTS DEEPLY AFFECTED. IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO EAST GERMAN PLANS OPEN PERMIT- ISSUING OFFICES TO SERVICE WEST BERLINERS AT S-BAHN STATIONS AM ZOO AND WESTKREUZ, SENAT STATED IT WOULD NOT PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT ANY GDR OFFICES IN WEST BERLIN.

3. S-BAHN: S-BAHN TRAIN OBSERVED RUNNING BETWEEN ANHALTER AND POTSDAMER PLATZ STATIONS AT 3-MINUTE INTERVALS WITH BROKEN WINDOWS AND CARRYING FOLLOWING SIGNBOARDS:

"THESE

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-3- 300, AUGUST 23, 11 PM, FROM: BERLIN

"THESE PANES WERE BROKEN BETWEEN FRIEDRICHSTRASSE AND WANNSEE ON NIGHT OF AUG 17-18"; "REPAIR COSTS AMOUNT TO DM 500".

EAST GERMAN RAILROAD OFFICIALS CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE IN FORMER REICHSBAHN DIRECTION BUILDING IN US SECTOR. MISSION OFFICERS ATTEMPTING TO ATTEND WERE DENIED ENTRANCE BY TOUGHS, BUT LEARNED FROM NEWSPAPERMEN EMERGING FROM MEETING THAT SPEAKER, CITING ALLEGED INSTANCES OF DAMAGE TO S-BAHN PROPERTY IN RECENT DAYS, HAD THREATENED ACTION AGAINST INTERZONAL TRAIN TRAFFIC IF VANDALISM NOT STOPPED. WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES ISSUED STRONG PUBLIC APPEAL TO DESIST FROM ACTS OF VANDALISM AGAINST S-BAHN.

UNION AND SENAT SOURCES REPORT S-BAHN BOYCOTT GREAT SUCCESS. PATRONAGE ESTIMATED AT 10-20 PER CENT OF PRE-BOYCOTT LEVEL; THOSE STILL USING S-BAHN BELIEVED TO BE SED MEMBERS AND SYMPATHIZERS PLUS HOLDERS PREPAID WEEKLY AND MONTHLY COMMUTATION TICKETS. TRADE UNIONS URGING MEMBERS CONTINUE BOYCOTT. SENAT OFFICIAL NOTED ALL TRAINS NOW RUNNING ARE "HALF TRAINS" (4 COACHES) WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY 8-COACH, 6-COACH, AND 4-COACH TRAINS WERE USED. AT COMMANDANTS' REQUEST, POLICE INSTRUCTED ENFORCE ORDERLY PICKETING, I.E., NO PHYSICAL INTERFERENCE WITH S-BAHN PATRONS.

4. REFUGEES: CERTAIN NUMBER REFUGEES CONTINUE TRICKLE THROUGH IN DRAMATIC FASHION. THIRTEEN SOVSECTOR RESIDENTS FLED THROUGH SEWER SYSTEM. BRICKLAYER WORKING ON WALL AT SECTOR-SECTOR BORDER HOPPED OVER INTO WEST BERLIN. YOUNG GIRL JUMPED FROM FIRST FLOOR WINDOW OF HOUSE IN EAST SECTOR INTO STREET BELOW, WHICH IN WEST SECTOR, BREAKING LEG. PRESS REPORTED YESTERDAY EVENING ELDERLY EAST BERLIN WOMAN JUMPED TO DEATH FROM THIRD STORY WINDOW UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

Relayed OSD, A,N, A 1:30 AM 8/24/61; advance copy to
SO 1 AM. CWO- JRL. LIGHTNER

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